MINUTES

OF THE

EIGHTEENTH,

OR THE

THIRD GENERAL CONVENTION,

OF THE

SYNOD AND MINISTERIUM

OF THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

IN THE

STATE OF OHIO.

HELD AT COLUMBUS, OHIO, ON THE 27TH OF MAY, AND THE FOLLOWING DAYS, A. D. 1839.

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1839.

EIGHTEENTH CONVENTION

OF THE

SYNOD AND MINISTERIUM

OF THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE STATE OF OHIO.

ACCORDING to resolution, the Ministers and Lay Delegates of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, within the Synodical district of Ohio, met on Saturday the 25th of May, A. D. 1839, at Columbus, Ohio, and at 2 o'clock, P. M. the Rev. *J. J. Fast* preached a preparatory sermon to the Lord's Supper, from 1st Cor. 11: 28. The other exercises of the occasion were performed by Professor *Schmidt*, Pastor of the place.

As the German Evangelical Church was not capacious enough that all could be accommodated, arrangements had been made to occupy the Presbyterian Church on the Lord's day—consequently the members of the Synod, with the Congregation, assembled in the Presbyterian Church on Lord's day morning to Divine service. The Rev. *M. J. Steck*, President of the Synod, preached the Sacramental Sermon from John 15: 5. to a large concourse of hearers, after which the Lord's Supper was administered to the Ministers, Delegates, and a great number of other communicants. At the same time, the Rev. *J. B. Reck* preached in the Episcopal Methodist Church, in the English language, from Hosea 14: 3--7. In the afternoon at 2 o'clock, the Rev. *H. Heinke* preached the Pastoral sermon, from Acts 26: 18. At 4 o'clock the Rev. *E. Greenwald* officiated in the Protestant Episcopal Church, and the Rev. *J. H. Hoffman* in the Methodist Church, both in English. The former preached from John 20: 27, and the latter from Gen. 5: 24. In the evening, the Rev. *Conrad* preached in the German Church, from Isaiah 15: 32, and the Rev. *C. Henkel* in the Presbyterian Church, from Luke 16: 31, in English.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SYNOD.

MONDAY, 27*th May*, 9 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The Ministers and Lay Delegates met in the Church, and after they had united in a hymn of praise, and joined with the President in an address to the Throne of Grace, the names of the members were called, whence it appeared that the following were present:

OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT.

Ordained Ministers.	*Lay Delegates.*
Rev. M. J. Steck.	
" J. J. Fast.	Mr. Henry Everhard, Jr.
" H. E. Melsheimer.	M. Lichtenwalter.
" D. Rothacker.	Peter Miller.

ABSENT.

Ordained ministers.	
" H. Huet, with excuse.	Rev. J. Hoelsche, with excuse.
" G. H. Weygandt, do.	" F. C. Becker, do.
" J. Mechling, do.	" C. F. Stohlman, do.
" C. G. Sweizerbarth, do.	Licentiate, J. C. Jehle, do.
" M. Kuchler.	

OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT.

	Lay Delegates.
Rev. J. Leist.	Mr. M. Neu.
" A. Henkel.	B. Emmerich.
" D. Schuh.	J. Hamman.
" S. Kæmmerer.	
" H. Heinke.	H. Merker.
" J. Wagenhals.	J. Beck.
Professor, W. Schmidt.	C. Heyl.
Rev. J. Gruber.	D. Lyons.
" S. S. Klein.	C. Gast.
" G. H. Riemenschneider.	
" H. Coloredo.	
" Pence.	J. Schultz.
" A. Conrad.	A. Kessler.
" C. Spielman.	B. Reber.
Licentiates, C. F. Kunert.	
" G. Walker.	
" J. Seidel.	H. Kiefer.
" J. J. Brandstettner.	G. Fried.
" F. W. Fuhrman.	A. Dippel.
Catechet, A. Link.	

ABSENT.

Rev. J. Stauch, with excuse. Licentiate, F. W. Cortez, with ex

Ordained Ministers.	Licentiates.
Rev. C. Espich.	J. H. Tanke, without excuse.
" Reis.	G. Klapp, with excuse.
" D. Cranz.	C. Rosenfeld. do
Licentiate, F. Jœsting.	

OF THE ENGLISH BRANCH OF THE SYNOD.

Ordained Ministers.	*Lay Delegates.*
Rev. C. Henkel.	Mr. F. Mœller.
" J. Manning.	
" J. B. Reck,	J. Everhard, Esq.
" E. Greenwald.	
" J. H. Hoffman.	F. D. Heckert.
" A. Bartholomew.	F. Livengood.
" G. Leiter.	
" J. A. Roof.	Tegarden.
Licentiate, A. Kuhn.	
" S. Ritz.	

ABSENT.

Ordained Ministers	
Rev. F. J. Ruth, with excuse.	W. G. Keil, without excuse
" E. Rathbun, do.	A. Weil, do.
Licentiate, J. Zerfasz, do.	

The Synod consequently consisted of fifty-five voting members: Thirty-three Ministers, and twenty-two Lay Delegates.

When the Synod was organized, the President read the following report:

Beloved Brethren—The important station in the Church in which you have been pleased to place me, by entrusting me with the Presidency of this Reverend body, makes it my duty to lay before you, this day, a report, giving an account of the discharge of my official duties during the term I have been in this office—giving a statement of the state of the Church; showing the manner in which I have endeavored to carry out the designs of the Synod in extending the Redeemer's Kingdom, and promoting the cause of that Religion which has for its object the Salvation of mankind; pointing out the difficulties that impede the prosperity of this great work, and recommending for your consideration those measures, that may be necessary to enable us to surmount those difficulties, and the more easily to accomplish this work within our Synodical District.

As those matters of a local nature, fall more properly under the care of the District Synods, I have had, as President of this body, objects of a general nature in our Synodical District, more particularly in view. I have taken care that the monies appropriated for general purposes, have been applied according to the direc-

tions of the Synod, which will be seen in the report of the Treasurer.

I have obtained the necessary information concerning the Institutions of our Church, especially of our Seminary, and have convinced myself of the proper management of it. I have inquired into the state of the Seminary, and have found that it needs prompt and efficient aid, more than it was possible for me to procure; and this I have noted especially for your consideration.

There have no collisions between the several Districts taken place, that would have called for my interference.

The number of Congregations, and members of our Church, have increased beyond our anticipations, and the increase of Ministers has been considerable; but, what is still more pleasing, the labors of our Ministers have been signally blessed from above.—. There has also been a greater regard awakened for a proper education, in the preparation for the ministry; and many of the Ministers, as well as congregations, have felt more deeply the necessity of educating suitable men for that holy office. Quietly, and apparently without intending to draw the gaze of the world upon it, did the Kingdom of God extend itself amongst us, and many a heart has, by the power of the Divine Spirit, that manifests itself in God's word and Sacraments, submitted to the life which is of God. But, my beloved brethren, I must not conceal, under these pleasing and blessed appearances, the imperfection of the present arrangement of the Synod, but must speak to you of the difficulties that hinder us—To you, of whose wisdom and active co-operation, the Church expects aid and assistance.

Our Church has undergone an important change during the last ten years. But a few years ago, the number of our Ministers was small; and there were few places where our fathers, who formed this Synod, could not meet conveniently to hold their annual Conventions. The attendance of all the members was the more necessary, as their number was small; and the consequence of their punctuality and zeal, and of the suitable arrangement of the Synod to circumstances, was the prosperity of the Church. Eight years ago, the necessity of a different arrangement became evident, and it was resolved to divide the Synod into two Districts—which was done two years after. Three years ago, the English branch of this Synod was formed, and all Synodical rights were conceded to the three branches or Districts. But, united in the bond of mutual love, and impressed with the truth,—that we must be one, and that our power lies in our permanent union, we have preserved the union of the Synod as well as of the Church, and have held every three years a General Convention, whilst, by our division into Districts, we have attended to the local wants of the Church.

But, Brethren, the time is not far distant, when we will be under the necessity of again making a change. If the Lord bless our

united efforts as he has hitherto done; it will be difficult hereafter to find places where the three Districts could conveniently assemble together. It is necessary that we should in time remove this difficulty, and consult with each other how we might devise a measure, whereby the General Synodical body would be diminished, whilst the principle of union, and love, and united co-operation for the Church must be preserved with inviolable fidelity; if that which has been gathered, is not to be scattered abroad again. Perhaps it would be of importance in regulating the affairs of the Church, in future, and removing present inconveniences, if a representative system of the several Districts or branches of the Synod were adopted; by which the representation in the General Convention would be as strong as possible; and, that time and experience might teach, in the interim, a committee were appointed to draft and report, at our next General Convention, a Constitution for a General Synod.

The external state of the Church has not only undergone a change, but her internal wants are different, and her present wants more imperative. Our Synodical District has been, not long since, a wilderness: But now it is an inhabited country, covered with prosperous villages and wealthy inhabitants. There has also been more attention paid to the cultivation and improvement of the mind —and all respectable Churches, as well as those that have not been so favorably disposed toward Education, have exerted themselves with a laudable zeal, to educate well informed Ministers. Our beloved Church, which at an early day, took the lead of all the Protestant Churches, in the cultivation of the mind and the promotion of the Sciences, not forgetting, in this western America, to make provision for the mind, has attempted to establish a Seminary for educating young men for the Ministry. But, it is just on this very important point, that, for want of united efforts, possible success has as yet failed.

That this institution has not been crowned with better success, is not to be attributed to a want of zeal for the Redeemer's kingdom; neither to the circumstance, that the want of educated Ministers should not have been felt; neither to the poverty of our church members, as though they were unable to support such an important cause; nor to the service it has rendered; but to the lothness with which Ministers in general have supported the institution —to the negligence to induce suitable young men to study, and to the carelessness in not raising a support for those who are indigent and capable.

Beloved brethren, it is upon our Seminary, and its prosperity, that I wish above all things to fix your attention and care. It is in our power; yes, God has put it in our power, to determine whether our Church shall, through unwearied exertions and united effort, sustain her character, or sink through carelessness and neglect

of that which is most calculated to sustain her. Whether she shall preserve for our children and childrens' children, the doctrines of the Gospel pure, unobscured alike by unbelief and superstition, which our fathers defined in the Confession of Augsburgh; or whether those doctrines shall become clouded with obscurity, foreign to the light of the Gospel, or deformed through excitement, that merely flatters the animal feelings. The question is this, brethren, shall we educate and send out capable Ministers, to speed, in the power of their Lord, the cause of everlasting life.

And finally, I feel it my duty to call your attention yet to two subjects, whose importance, it is true, has been acknowledged from the earliest ages of the Church, and is even yet amongst us; but which, in these latter times, where the worth of the old is so often bedimmed with the glitter of the new, have not been looked upon with that regard they deserve. I mean Catechetical instruction, especially the instruction preparatory to Confirmation, and the use of an appropriate Liturgy.

We have obligated ourselves to those, who are received into the Church by Baptism, to educate and instruct them in the faith by which they are to become holy, that our children, already in their youth, might learn to remember their Creator and Saviour, and their spirit to receive the spirit of Christ, which alone can make them free; preserve them in faith, and renew and sanctify their lives.

The propagation of Christianity is the fruit of instruction in the word of God, and through this instruction has our Church been established anew in the Reformation. It is the groundwork of our Church.—Therefore did Luther write his two Catechisms for the promotion of true faith and Godliness. It should be the Evangelical Preacher's principal aim to become useful by instructing the youth. The Synod should, therefore, consider it a sacred duty to use all possible efforts to preserve and facilitate Catechetical instruction in our Synodical District, and to oppugn the neglect of the instruction preparatory to confirmation, under whatever pretext it may be set aside.

Formerly, it was customary to present each Licentiate with a Liturgy, at the time of his Licensure; but this appropriate custom has been discontinued, for several years, merely because they could not be had. In consequence of the scarcity of Liturgies, our Licentiates have been under the necessity of transcribing them, or writing their own formulas. It is evident, how much the labors of the young Minister, which are already sufficiently manifold, are thereby increased, and his efficacy diverted from other duties. How much of Public worship has thereby been yielded to arbitrariness, and how much the external conformity of worship has lost. I do, therefore, earnestly recommend, either to procure a sufficient number of the Liturgy, used by the Synod of Pennsylvania, if it be pos-

sible, or to appoint a committee to compile one till the next Convention, and, if approved, to publish it.

I conclude, brethren, by tendering you my sincere thanks for the confidence, love and patience you have shown towards me, during the imperfect administration of my important trust—and with the prayer to God, that He might attend with his aid in all our deliberations, and bless our labors with the prosperity of the cause of his kingdom. MICHAEL J. STECK.

The report being read, it was

Resolved, That the report of the President be accepted, and printed with the Minutes, and that it be referred to a committee, to report on those subjects that demand special attention.

The committee consists of the Rev. A. Henkel, J. Leist, E. Greenwald, Professor Schmidt, and Messrs. Everhard, Beck, and Heyl.

The election of officers was now held, and the result was as follows:

Rev. C. HENKEL, *President*,
J. J. FAST, *Secretary, and*
Mr. M. NEU, *Treasurer*.

The Rev. A. CONRAD was appointed Assistant Secretary.

The communications addressed to the Synod were now handed in, and referred to the following committees, to report thereon.

1st Committee consisted of the Rev. Steck, Wagenhals, Kæmmerer, and Messrs. Beck and Kiefer.

2d., of Rev. A. Henkel, Kunert, Bartholomew, and Messrs. H. Everhard and Hon. C. Heyl.

3d., of Rev. Leist, Spielman, and Hoffman, and Messrs. Neu and Mœller.

4th., of Rev. Heinke, Reck, Rothacker, and Messrs. Meiksel and Merker.

5th., of Rev. Gruber, Klein, Coloredo, and Messrs. Gast and Lyons.

6th., of Rev. Schuh, Riemenschneider, Roof, and Messrs. Hamman and Tegarden.

7th., of Rev. Manning, Greenwald, Leiter, and Messrs. Livengood and Heckert.

8th., of Rev. Pence, Fuhrman, Melsheimer, Walker, and Messrs. Schulz and Reber.

The Synod adjourned till 3 o'clock, and closed with prayer by the Secretary.

MONDAY, 3 *o'clock*, *P. M.*

The session was opened with singing and prayer by Rev. J. Manning.

The first committee handed in the following report:

No. 1, is a letter from the Rev. father Stauch, containing his parochial report, and an account of the state of the Church in Columbiana county, expressing also a wish that a Minister might be located there. As the committee considered this letter in part confidential, they did not see proper to offer any resolution.

No. 2, is a letter from the Rev. father Weygandt, containing, besides a good advice in regard to the admission of applicants for the Ministry, several satisfactory reasons for his absence. The letter being read, it was, on motion,

Resolved, That father Weygandt be excused for his absence; and that we thankfully take his advice, acknowledge the importance of it, and shall use all possible precaution in the admission of applicants.

No. 3, is a memorial from the church councils of Rev. Wagenhals' and Spielman's charges, setting forth the necessity of greater exertions on the part of the Synod, in supplying the destitute congregations in the Western and North western parts of this state, with Missionaries. They also offer to the Synod for consideration, a measure calculated, in their opinion, more efficiently to carry out their missionary designs.

The memorial was read, and after having been duly considered, it was, on motion,

Resolved, That the Synod approve of it, if Ministers form Missionary associations according to the plan proposed by said memorialists.

The third committee reported as follows, (the second not yet being prepared to report.)

No. 1, are communications from four congregations, under the charge of Licentiate F. W. Fuhrman, in Springfield and Darbytown, Union county, and Canton and Washington, Hardin county, wherein they express their entire satisfaction with the preaching and deportment of their Minister; and pray the Synod to allow him to continue his services among them.

No. 2, is a communication from the congregation of Springfield, defending Licentiate Fuhrman against some accusations of Licentiate Brandstettner.

On motion of the committee, this communication was read; after which the Synod adjourned till to-morrow at 9 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. Heinke. This evening, rev. Rothacker preached from Matthew 10: 32.

TUESDAY, 9 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The session was opened as usual by singing, and an address to the Throne of Grace by the President. Whereupon the minutes of Monday were revised.

Resolved, That Licentiate Brandstettner be called on to prefer his accusations, to which reference was yesterday had.

After he had, in part, made his accusations orally, it was

Resolved, That he lay in his accusations in writing.

The second committee, now being prepared, reported as follows:

No. 1, is a memorial from Salem's church, Trumbull county, Ohio, signed by forty-seven persons, in which they deplore the present situation of the Evangelical Lutheran, and German Reformed Churches, and express a desire that these two churches might speedily be united. They also observe, that a petition for a union will be laid before the German Reformed Synod.

The committee consider this a subject of too great importance for them to make any proposition—although they desire a union—but recommend it to the Synod for consultation.

Resolved, That the consideration of this subject be postponed, until the seventh committee have reported.

No. 2, is a letter from Rev. J. Hœlsche, in which he complains of the conduct of many of his German Reformed brethren; wishes to be excused for his absence, and gives his parochial report.

The committee deplore the state of things complained of in this letter, and sincerely wish that those differences may soon be adjusted.

Resolved, That Rev. Hœlsche be excused for his absence.

No. 3, is a letter from Rev. F. C. Becker, giving his parochial report, and stating that he has collected $10, and received $5 from a member of the church, for the Synodical treasury. He also requests to be excused for his absence. Excused.

No. 4, is a communication from Salem's Church, Columbiana county, wherein they express the hope, that they will be able to adjust the differences that have formerly existed there, between the Lutheran and German Reformed congregations; as also a wish to retain Mr. Hœlsche as their minister.

No. 5, is the eighth number of the Lutheran Herald, printed at Fort Plain, New-York, under the supervision of a committee of the Frankean Synod, containing, under the superscription of Orthodoxy, a violent attack upon our Synod. On motion of the committee, this article was read—Whereupon it was

Resolved, That we do not consider these accusations of the Herald of the Frankean Synod, worthy of notice.

The President appointed two committees to examine and report on the minutes of our sister Synods, which consist: First of Rev. Ritz, Kuhn and Mr. Emmerich; and Second, of Rev. Pence, Spielman, and Mr. Beck.

The Synod adjourned till 2 o'clock this afternoon. Prayer by Rev. Riemenschneider.

TUESDAY, 2 *o'clock, P. M.*

After the Synod had united in singing a hymn of praise, and in prayer with Rev. J. Leist, the fourth committee was called on to report. Their report is as follows:

No. 1, is a letter from Rev. M. Kuchler, in which he states that it was not possible for him to be present at the Synod, in consequence of ill-health.

No. 2, is a communication from the same brother, in which he states that there would be room for another Minister in his neighborhood, and especially that something should be done for our church in the counties of Venango and Erie. He further states that, in consequence of his ill health, he has not yet performed his missionary services in Erie, but intends still to do it, as soon as his health permits. He transmitted to the Treasurer $106 85, left in his hands at Columbiana last year, including fifty-seven cents interest on said amount; gives his parochial report, and invokes the blessing of GOD upon the transactions of the Synod.—On motion of the committee, brother Kuchler was excused; and in regard to our destitute brethren in Venango and Erie, it was

Resolved, That in the appointment of Missionaries we will endeavor to do something for them.

No. 3, are letters from the congregations of Licentiate Seidel, expressing their entire satisfaction with him, in regard to his preaching as well as his deportment: They also desire to retain him as their minister.

No. 4, is a similar testimonial in favor of Licentiate Klapp.—The Synod rejoice in the satisfaction of those congregations with their Ministers, and with pleasure grant their requests.

No. 5, is a communication from Licentiate Klapp, wishing to be excused for his absence, and requesting the renewal of his license.

Resolved, That brother Klapp be excused; and that the renewal of his license be postponed until the session of the Ministerium.

No. 6, is a letter from Licentiate E. C. Rosenfeld, of Hamilton, in which he begs the Synod to excuse him for his absence, and assigns the want of means as the cause of his not attending. The same letter also contains his parochial report. On motion of the committee, the letter was read, and brother Rosenfeld excused.

Resolved, Inasmuch as it is contrary to our ministerial order, for Licentiates to leave their congregations without permission of the Ministerium or its officers; and inasmuch as it has been ascertained that Licentiate Rosenfeld did leave his congregation in Chilicothe, without such permission, that this matter be postponed and considered in the Ministerial session.

No. 7, is a letter from Mr. B. Meese, candidate for the Ministry in Ibbenbuehren, province of Westphalia, Kingdom of Prussia.—The committee does not deem it necessary to report on this letter; but propose to state its contents to the Synod. After which, it was

Resolved, That Rev. Heinke be appointed to give Mr. Meese the information he desires.

The fifth committee reported as follows:

Nos. 1, 2, 3, are communications from Licentiate Jœsting, giving his parochial report, and assigning his indigent circumstances as the cause of his absence, and hopes to be excused. The same papers also contain the testimony of four congregations, that they are well satisfied with brother Jœsting, and wish to retain him as their Minister. Brother Jœsting also sends a manuscript Sermon, several dispositions of Sermons, and his day book, with a request that his License may be renewed. On motion of the committee, it was

Resolved, That brother Jœsting be excused for his absence, —and that the renewal of his License be postponed till the session of the Ministerium.

No. 4, is a letter from Rev. Reis, through which he informs the Synod, that he removed from Hamilton in consequence of discord among the people, and now lives in Wayne county, Indiana, where he has charge of two congregations. He hopes that the blessings of God may rest upon the transactions of the Synod, and that he may be excused for his absence. Excused.

No. 5, is a letter from Licentiate Jehle, wherein he assigns multiplicity of business, and want of money, as the reasons of his absence; gives an account of his collections, and his parochial report —and complains of the imperfections of our Liturgy. On motion of the committee, the letter was read: After which, it was

Resolved, That Mr. Jehle be not excused for his non-attendance.

No. 6, is a Missionary report of Rev. F. W. Cortez, wherein it is stated, that he served as Missionary in Hancock county fifty-eight days, preached nineteen times, baptised sixteen children, and collected $8 24. On motion of the committee, this report was read before the Synod.

Rev. Brandstettner now presented his accusations against Rev. Fuhrman, in writing—Whereupon it was

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed, this evening, to investigate and decide on the complaint of Rev. Brandstettner,

The committee consisted of Rev. Wagenhals, A. Henkel, and Klein.

Resolved, That the report of the Directors of the Seminary, and that of the President, be the first business in order on to-morrow.

The sixth committee reported:

No. 1, is a testimony in favor of Rev. Huebner, signed by three members of the Church Council of the Lutheran congregation at Arnheim, Brown county, with a petition that he may be licensed, and be permitted to remain amongst them.

As the granting of Licenses constitutes part of the business of the Ministerium, the consideration of this petition was postponed till that session.

No. 2, is a letter from Mr. A. Miller, of Allegheny town, praying for support. The committee recommend, that Mr. Miller be requested to lay his petition before the Eastern District.

No. 3, is a letter from C. G. Schweinfurth, praying to be excused for non-attendance. Not excused.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

The session was closed with prayer by Rev. A. Henkel. This evening, Rev. Colorado preached from John 7: 17.

WEDNESDAY, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

Prayer by the President.

After the minutes of yesterday were revised, the Directors of the Seminary handed in the following report:

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE SEMINARY.

Inasmuch as the Constitution of our Seminary makes it the duty of the Directors, to lay before the Synod a report on the state, success and means of the Seminary, the Directory have deemed it proper to give the following information, with several propositions in regard to this institution—which they earnestly recommend to the mature consideration of the Synod.

This institution had no means of support at its commencement, and the first contributions toward the purchase of ten acres of land, and the erection of buildings, were not received till the year 1832, which support ceased entirely in 1833. The money received in 1832 and '33, was barely sufficient to finish the edifice of the Seminary, to its present state, and to make the first payment on the land. To be enabled to make the second payment, in 1833, we had to borrow $300, which are yet bearing interest; and in order to secure a deed for the property of the institution, we had to borrow again $300, in 1835, the interest of which has, however, been paid up to this time: Thus the whole debt of the Seminary, at present, is about $694.

There have been no other debts incurred, inasmuch as the contributions of the Synod, with the proceeds of the School, have been sufficient to pay the small salary of the Professor, and the expenses of necessary repairs.

It is easily to be seen, that the Seminary in this situation, notwithstanding the exertions of the Professor and Directors, could not rise in prosperity as its importance demands. The second story, intended for the dwellings of the students, is not yet completed—neither is there any provision made for a boarding house: And without greater exertion, on the part of the Synod, to procure the means, which are indispensibly necessary to the preservation and promotion of the institution, it is impossible for it to